

# GERMAN

**IN A WEEK!**

**THE ULTIMATE GERMAN LEARNING  
COURSE FOR BEGINNERS**

German in a Week!

*The Ultimate German Learning Course for  
Beginners*

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# Introduction

I want to thank you and congratulate you for purchasing this book...

## **“German Basics in a Week!”**

This book contains proven techniques and strategies to help self-learners acquire proficiency in the fundamentals of the German language in as little as one week. It is designed to provide travelers, students, job applicants, business owners, and enthusiasts with a comprehensive, engaging and excellent resource to make German language learning an enjoyable and exciting experience. The book aims to break the barriers that make learning German a difficult and frustrating experience for many students.

It facilitates rapid and efficient learning by applying a practical and straightforward approach to grammar and communication. It reinforces important grammar points and vocabulary with visual aids, interesting images, and relevant examples. The book “German Basics in a Week: The Ultimate German Learning Course for Beginners” is the only book you need to speak, understand and learn German in no time at all.

Thanks again for purchasing this book, I hope you enjoy it!

# Chapter 1                      - The Basics of the German Language

German is the official language of Germany and Austria and one of the official languages of Switzerland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Belgium. It is spoken by a majority of people in South Tyrol, an Italian province.

German is the most widely spoken language in the European Union. It is a pluricentric language, which only means that each country has its own variant, as well as dialects. It is most similar to other West Germanic languages, such as Dutch, English, and Afrikaans. More than 95 million people worldwide speak German and it is one of the most studied languages in the world.

Learning German is a challenge for many students. If you're an English speaker, you will realize that German has many features that are either non-existent or not frequently used in English.

Here are some of them:

1. German inflects its nouns, adjectives, articles and other modifiers to express the case, gender and number of nouns.
2. German conjugates its verbs according to moods, tenses and persons.
3. All German nouns are capitalized.
4. The English definite article "the" has many equivalent definite articles in German.
5. There are two ways to address people in German – formal and familiar. The difference is reflected in the different ways that the pronoun "you" is expressed.
6. Some letters have no equivalent sounds in English and will have to be learned closely.

These differences, however, are not insurmountable. With daily practice, you can make yourself sound like a native German speaker. Here are tips to make learning German a breeze:

- Set realistic learning goals within a specific timeframe and measure your achievements regularly.
- Spend at least two hours daily on your lessons. Never miss a learning session.
- Aim to speak like a native German speaker.
- Grow your vocabulary rapidly by studying German-English cognates.
- Strive to learn new words every day.

## The German Alphabet

The German language uses the 26-letter Latin alphabet used in English, but each letter either has a different name or is pronounced differently. In addition, it has four additional distinct letter sounds.

Some letters may present challenges to English speakers as they have no parallel sound in English.

Here is the German alphabet and a guide to each letter’s pronunciation. Click on the guide to listen to each alphabet sound.

A a	<a href="#">Ah</a>	N n	<a href="#">en</a>
B b	<a href="#">Bay</a>	O o	<a href="#">oh</a>
C c	<a href="#">Tsay</a>	P p	<a href="#">pay</a>
D d	<a href="#">day</a>	Q q	<a href="#">koo</a>
E e	<a href="#">ay</a>	R r	<a href="#">air</a>
F f	<a href="#">eff</a>	S s	<a href="#">es</a>
G g	<a href="#">gay</a>	T t	<a href="#">tay</a>
H h	<a href="#">haa</a>	U u	<a href="#">ooh</a>
I i	<a href="#">eeh</a>	V v	<a href="#">fow</a>
J j	<a href="#">yot</a>	W w	<a href="#">vay</a>
K k	<a href="#">kah</a>	X x	<a href="#">iks</a>
L l	<a href="#">ell</a>	Y y	<a href="#">ypsilon</a>
M m	<a href="#">em</a>	Z z	<a href="#">tset</a>

**Pronunciation Guide**

Vowels	English Sound
a	ah, as the "a" in card
e (long)	ay, as the long "a" in bay
e (short)	eh, like the "e" in get
e (final)	unstressed "e" or schwa, sounds like the "a" in sofa
i (long)	ee, like the "ee" in been
i (short)	ih, like the "i" in lip
o (long)	oh, like the open "o" but it does not glide to a "u" sound
o (short)	like the "o" in pot
u (long)	oo like the "oo" in moon
u (short)	like the “u” in push and put

Consonants	English Sound
b	Like the b in "bed"
b (final)	like the "p" in pack
c (before i and e)	like the "ts" in pots
c (before a, o, u)	like the "k" in kite
d	like the English "d" but more dental
d (final)	like the English "t" but more dental
f	like the "f" in effects
g	usually have a hard sound like the "g" in "gate"

g (final)	pronounced like "k"
g (final, as suffix -ig)	sounds like "ich"
g	sounds like "zh" in French-derived words (ex. etage, ay-tah-zhuh)
h	like the "h" in heart when it starts a syllable
j	like the "y" in year
k	like the "c" in car
l	like the "l" in lap
m	like the "m" in mouth
n	like the "n" in note
ng	like "ng" in ringer
p	like the "p" in pack in all positions
qu	pronounced as "kv"
r	r with slightly guttural trill
s	like the "z" in maze
s (final)	like the "s" in sing
t	like the English "t", slightly less dental
v	like the "f" in father
w (in general)	like the "v" in van
x	sounds like "ks"
y	sounds like ü but takes the English "y" sound in borrowed words
z	like the "ts" in shots

Diphthongs	English Sound
au	like the "ow" in bow
ei	like the vowel sound in lie
eu	like the "oy" in boy
ie	like the "ee" in free
ai	pronounced like "ei"

Letter Combinations	English Sound
sch	like the "sh" in sheep
sp	sounds like sh+p at the start of a syllable or word
st	sound like "sh+t" at the start of a syllable or word
ng	like the "ng" in singing
ch (after a, au,o,u)	like the "kh"sound in Lochness
ch (after 'e', 'ä', 'i', 'ei', 'eu', 'äu' and 'ö')	a much softer English "sh" sound
ch (after consonants except s)	a much softer English "sh" sound



ch (before s)	sounds like "ks" (ch always takes the "k" sound before s)
ch	like the "ch" in character at the start of a word
ph	like the "f" in fish
ck	sounds like "ck" in mocking
pf	articulated as one word - say "p" with closed lips and end with "f"
psy, pn, pt	p is pronounced in these consonant clusters

The extra letters – Umlauts and Eszett	
ä (short)	like the "e" in set
ä (long)	no similar English sound but close to the "a" in air
ö	no similar English sound but close to the vowel sound in "sir"
ü	no similar English sound but close to the sound of ew in pew
ß	pronounced as "s", lengthens the preceding vowel

## Numbers

Numbers play an important role in everyday life. You use them to count, rank, tell time and date, and do banking transactions. In this section, you will learn about cardinal numbers, ordinal numbers and fractions.

### Cardinal Numbers

German numbers - from zero to twenty - are unique numbers that you need to learn individually. From twenty-one to ninety-nine, the numbers are sort of stated backwards. For example, the number twenty-four in German is vierundzwanzig. When you translate this to English, you will say four and twenty. Take note that German numbers before one million are written as one word.

Like in most European countries, commas and decimal points are used inversely in German. For example, while you write 999,999.99 in English, the number would appear as 999.999,99 in German.

Here are the German cardinal numbers and their pronunciation:

0	null	<i>Null</i>
1	eins	<i>Ighnss</i>
2	zwei	<i>Tsvigh</i>
3	drei	<i>Drigh</i>
4	vier	<i>Feer</i>
5	fünf	<i>Fuunf</i>

6	sechs	<i>Zekhs</i>
7	sieben	<i>ZEE-ben</i>
8	acht	<i>Ahkht</i>
9	neun	<i>Noyn</i>
10	zehn	<i>Tsayn</i>
11	elf	<i>Elf</i>
12	zwölf	<i>Tsvoolf</i>
13	dreizehn	<i>DRIGH-tsayn</i>
14	vierzehn	<i>FEER-tsayn</i>
15	fünfzehn	<i>FUUNF-tsayn</i>
16	sechzehn	<i>ZEKH-tsayn</i>
17	siebzehn	<i>ZEEP-tsayn</i>
18	achtzehn	<i>AHKH-tsayn</i>
19	neunzehn	<i>NOYN-tsayn</i>
20	zwanzig	<i>TSVAHN-tsikh</i>
21	einundzwanzig	<i>IGHN-oont-tsvahn-tsikh</i>
22	zweiundzwanzig	<i>TSVIGH-oont-tsvahn-tsikh</i>
23	dreiundzwanzig	<i>DRIGH-oont-tsvahn-tsikh</i>
24	vierundzwanzig	<i>foonf-oont-tsvan-tsikh</i>
25	fünfundzwanzig	<i>foonf-oont-tsvan-tsikh</i>
26	sechszwanzig	<i>zekhs-oont-tsvan-tsikh</i>
27	siebenundzwanzig	<i>zee-ben-oont-tsvan-tsikh</i>
28	achtundzwanzig	<i>akht-oont-tsvan-tsikh</i>
29	neunundzwanzig	<i>noyn-oont-tsvan-tsikh</i>
30	dreißig	<i>DRIGH-sikh</i>
40	vierzig	<i>FEER-tsikh</i>
50	fünfzig	<i>FUUNF-tsikh</i>
60	sechzig	<i>ZEKH-tsikh</i>
70	siebzig	<i>ZEEP-tsikh</i>
80	achtzig	<i>AHKH-tsikh</i>
90	neunzig	<i>NOYN-tsikh</i>
100	hundert	<i>HOON-dert</i>
1.000	tausend	<i>TOW-zent</i>
2.000	zweitausend	<i>TSVIGH-tow-zent</i>
3.000	dreitausend	<i>DRIGH-tow-zent</i>
5.000	fünftausend	<i>FUUNF-tow-zent</i>
10.000	zehntausend	<i>TSAYN-tow-zent</i>
100.000	hunderttausend	<i>HOON-dert-tow-zent</i>
1.000.000	eine Million	<i>igh-nuh mill-YOHN</i>
1.000.000.000	eine Milliarde	<i>igh-nuh bill-YOHN</i>

**Ordinal Numbers**

Ordinal numbers are used to designate rankings or placement. Ordinal numbers are adjectives and like other German adjectives, they must change their forms to match the noun or pronoun they modify.

In most cases, ordinal numbers are formed by adding a suffix to cardinal numbers. Numbers one to nineteen add the suffix –te while numbers twenty and up get –ste. The exceptions here are first (erste), third (dritte), seventh (siebte), and eighth (achte).

The -e ending on each ordinal number is in fact an adjective ending. The ending may change based on the case where it appears and on the gender and number of the noun it modifies. Possible suffixes are: -e, -en, -er, -es, and less commonly -em.

Here are the German ordinal numbers:

1 <sup>st</sup>	erste	<i>er-ste</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	zweite	<i>tsvy-te</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	dritte	<i>drit-te</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	vierte	<i>feer-te</i>
5 <sup>th</sup>	fünfte	<i>foonf-te</i>
6 <sup>th</sup>	sechste	<i>zekh-ste</i>
7 <sup>th</sup>	siebte	<i>zeep-ste</i>
8 <sup>th</sup>	achte	<i>akh-te</i>
9 <sup>th</sup>	neunte	<i>noyn-te</i>
10 <sup>th</sup>	zehnte	<i>tsayn-te</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	elfte	<i>elf-te</i>
12 <sup>th</sup>	zwölfte	<i>tsvur'lf-te</i>
13 <sup>th</sup>	dreizehnte	<i>dry-tsayn-te</i>
14 <sup>th</sup>	vierzehnte	<i>feer-tsayn-te</i>
15 <sup>th</sup>	fünfzehnte	<i>foonf-tsayn-te</i>
16 <sup>th</sup>	sechzehnte	<i>zekh-tsayn-te</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	siebzehnte	<i>zeep-tsayn-te</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	achtzehnte	<i>akht-tsayn-te</i>
19 <sup>th</sup>	neunzehnte	<i>noyn-tsayn-te</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	zwanzigste	<i>tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
21 <sup>st</sup>	einundzwanwigste	<i>ine-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	zweiundzwanwigste	<i>tsvy-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>

23rd	dreiundzwanzigste	<i>dry-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
24th	vierundzwanzigste	<i>feer-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
25th	fünfundzwanzigste	<i>foonf-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
26th	sechszundzwanzigste	<i>zekhs-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
27th	siebenundzwanzigste	<i>zee-ben-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
28th	achtundzwanzigste	<i>akht-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
29th	neunundzwanzigste	<i>noyn-oont-tsvan-tsikh-ste</i>
30th	dreißigste	<i>dry-sikh-ste</i>
31st	einunddreißigste	<i>ine-oont-dry-sikh-ste</i>
40th	vierzigste	<i>feer-tsikh-ste</i>
50th	fünfzigste	<i>foonf-tsikh-ste</i>
60th	sechzigste	<i>zekh-tsikh-ste</i>
70th	siebzigste	<i>zeep-tsikh-ste</i>
80th	achtzigste	<i>akht-tsikh-ste</i>
90th	neunzigste	<i>noyn-tsikh-ste</i>
100th	hundertste	<i>hoon-dert-ste</i>
101st	hunderterste	<i>hoon-dert-er-ste</i>
1,000th	tausendste	<i>tow-zent-ste</i>
1,000,000th	Millionste	<i>mil-ee-on-ste</i>

### Fractions

Fractions express partial quantities. To write fractions in German, you will use a cardinal number as a numerator (upper number) and the stem of the ordinal number + the “-el” ending as the denominator (lower number).

Most forms of fraction are invariable except for “halb” (half), which is inflected like most adjectives to correspond with the noun it modifies.

Examples:

feminine	in einer halben Stunde	in half an hour
neuter	ein halbes Kilo Mehl	half kilo of flour
masculine	der halbe Liter Wasser	half liter of water

Here are examples of fractional forms:

ein halb	$\frac{1}{2}$
ein drittel	$\frac{1}{3}$
ein viertel	$\frac{1}{4}$
ein fünftel	$\frac{1}{5}$
ein sechstel	$\frac{1}{6}$
ein achtel	$\frac{1}{8}$
zwei drittel	$\frac{2}{3}$
drei viertel	$\frac{3}{4}$
ein sechstel	$\frac{1}{6}$

### Days of the Week

The days of the week in German are masculine and are written with an initial capital letter.

Montag	mohn-tahk	Monday
Dienstag	deens-tahk	Tuesday
Mittwoch	mit-vock	Wednesday
Donnerstag	don-ers-tahk	Thursday
Freitag	fry-tahk	Friday
Samstag	zahms-tahk	Saturday
Sonntag	zon-tahk	Sunday

### Months of the Year

The names of the months are all masculine. They are written with an initial capital letter. Take note that some months are similar to the months in English.

January	yah-noo-ahr	January
February	fay-broo-ahr	February
März	Mehrts	March
April	ah-pril	April
Mai	my	May
Juni	yoo-nee	June
Juli	yoo-lee	July
August	ow-goost	August
September	zehp-tehm-ber	September
Oktober	ok-toh-ber	October
November	no-vehm-ber	November
Dezember	deh-tsem-ber	December

## Telling Time and Date

Knowing how to ask for and tell time is one of the most vital communication skills that all language learners should know. You need to understand time in German to get to your appointment on time, plan your activities and manage your schedule while in a German-speaking place.

To ask for time in German, you can use one of these phrases:

Wie viel Uhr ist es?  
*vee feel oohr ist ês*

Wie spät ist es?  
*vee shpayt isst ess*

Both expressions may be translated as “What time is it?”

Germans use both the 12-hour and 24-hour time format to tell time. The 12-hour format is used in daily conversations while the 24-hour format is used for official and formal activities, such as setting business appointments, game schedules, news reporting and announcements. When time clarity is of utmost importance, you will want to use the military time.

### **Telling time using the 12-hour Format**

When the clock is at one o'clock, you will say “ein Uhr”:

Es ist ein Uhr.



It's one o'clock.

To tell time for other hours, you will use this pattern and insert a cardinal number:

It's \_\_\_\_ o'clock.

Es ist \_\_\_\_ Uhr.

Examples:

Es ist zwei Uhr am Nachmittag.

Es ist zehn uhr nachts.



It's two o'clock in the afternoon.



It's ten o'clock at night.

To tell time past the hour, you'll use "nach" (nâH). To express the minutes or fraction of time before the approaching hour, you will use "vor" (fohr).

When the time is fifteen minutes or a quarter before or past the exact hour, you can use "viertel" (feer-tel).

Examples:

It is quarter past \_\_\_\_\_.

It is quarter to \_\_\_\_\_.

1:45

It is a quarter to two.

4:15

It is a quarter past four.

Es ist viertel nach \_\_\_\_\_.

Es ist viertel vor \_\_\_\_\_.

Es ist viertel vor zwei.

Es ist viertel nach vier .

To express time at half hour, you will use "halb" (hâlp), the German term for half, to indicate that the time is a half-hour before or past an hour.

Examples:

7:30

It's a half hour before 8 o'clock.

Es ist eine halbe Stunde vor 8 Uhr.

2:30

It's a half hour after 2 o'clock.

Es ist eine halbe Stunde nach 02 Uhr.

To express time when it is a few minutes past or before the exact hour, you will use the words "nach" to express the number of minutes past the hour and "vor" to express time before the exact hour.

Examples:

9:50

Es ist zehn Minuten vor zehn.

It is ten minutes before ten.

5:15

Es ist fünfzehn Minuten nach fünf .

It is fifteen minutes past five.

Take note that the words Minuten or Uhr may be omitted in colloquial speech.

Hence:

Er ist fünf vor zwölf.	It's five to twelve.
Er ist zwanzig vor sieben.	It's twenty to seven.

Germans never use the time expressions a.m. and p.m. They use specific time descriptions to clarify the part of day, instead. Here are the time expressions used in German and the approximate time for each expression:

Parts of Day	English	Approximate Time
das Morgengrauen	dawn	12 am-6 am
der Morgen	morning	6 am-10 am
der Vormittag	late morning	10 am-12 pm
der Mittag	noon	12 pm-2 pm
der Nachmittag	afternoon	2 pm-4 pm
der Abend	evening	4 pm-7 pm
die Nacht	night	7 pm-12 am

## Telling the Precise Time (Military time):

The 24-hour format is used to tell time in a precise manner, thereby avoiding ambiguities. You may find the military format to be much simpler than the 12-hour clock. To tell time in this format, you can start by imagining time on a digital clock. You will then replace the colon with “Uhr” and read the numbers on the left and right side of the colon in the same way that you would normally read cardinal numbers.

Examples:

12:25 is read as 12 Uhr 25 (zwölf Uhr fünfundzwanzig)  
 20:45 is 20 Uhr 45 (zwanzig Uhr fünfundvierzig )  
 23:35 is 23 Uhr 35 (dreiundzwanzig Uhr fünfunddreißig)

## Expressing the Date in German

The dates may be expressed in the long or short format. In both formats, the day is written before the month and the year. In addition, the day, month and year are separated by a period, instead of the slash marks that you usually see in English dates. The day is also expressed as an ordinal number.

Here are examples of dates written in the long and short format:

The Long Format

German	Meaning
der 05.April.2016	the fifth of April 2016
der 10.July 2015	the tenth of July 2015



## The Short Format

German	English
der 10.03.2016	03/20/2016
der 12.01.2014	01/12/2014

## Telling the Year in German

There are two ways to tell the year in German. For the years before the year 2000, in 1918 for instance, the year is written as neunzehnhundertachtzehn or literally, nineteen hundred eighteen. The year 1820 will be written as achtzehnhundertzwanzig or eighteen hundred twenty.

For the year 2000 onwards, the year is expressed like a regular number. For example, the year 2016 is zweitausendsechzehn (two thousand sixteen).

## Capitalization and Punctuation

1. All German nouns are capitalized.
2. Ihnen, Ihr, and Sie are always capitalized.
3. Ich, the first person singular pronoun, is not capitalized unless it is used at the start of a sentence.
4. Words or adjectives describing nationality, religions, or ethnicity are not capitalized.
5. The Oxford comma is never used in the German language.
6. The German language makes use of this quotation mark: „\_\_\_\_“.

## Colors (Farben) in German

German color words are commonly used as adjectives and take adjective endings depending on the case, the gender of the noun they describe, and the type of declension required for the article that precede the adjective. The exceptions are color names ending in –a such as rosa (pink) and lila (violet) that are not declined.

Examples:

Rot, the color name for red, can take on different forms depending on the case, gender and number of nouns. Auto is a feminine noun and the adjective(s) that describe it is declined to match its gender. To describe one car, “rot” becomes “rote”. To describe two or more cars, “rot” is declined as “roten”.



der rote Auto  
(the red car)



die roten Autos  
(the red cars)

The word apfel (apple) is a masculine noun and the adjective must take the masculine form when used to describe an apple.



die roten Apfel  
the red apple



die roten Äpfel  
the red apples

In some cases, colors can function as nouns and are capitalized.

eine Bluse in Rot- a bluse in red

Here are the German names for colors:



German	Pronunciation	English
rot	roht	red
gelb	gelp	yellow
blau	blou	blue
grün	gruun	green
orange	oh-RAHNGSH	orange
braun	brown	brown
schwarz	shvarts	black
weiß	vighss	white
grau	grou	gray
rosa	ROH-zah	pink
lila	lee-lah	purple

### German Greetings and Common Expressions

There are two ways to greet and address people in German: the formal or polite way and the informal or casual way. To address someone formally, you will use the pronoun “Sie” and corresponding verb form. To address someone casually, you need to use the pronoun “du” and the appropriate verb form.

Hello! (informal)	Hallo!	hâ-loh!
Good day!	Guten Tag!	gooh-ten tahk!
Good morning!	Guten Morgen!	goot-en mor-gen
Good evening!	Guten Abend!	gooh-ten ah-bent!
Good night!	Gute Nacht!	goot-eh nakht

Goodbye!	Auf Wiedersehen!	ouf vee-der-zey-en!
See you later.	Bis später.	biss shpay-ter
See you soon!	Bis bald!	biss bahlt
See you tomorrow.	Bis morgen.	biss mohr-gen
Thank you.	Danke.	dân-ke.
Thank you very much.	Vielen Dank!	Feelen Dank!
Very well, thanks.	Danke, gut.	dang-ker goot
Very good.	Sehr gut.	zair goot
You're welcome.	Bitte schön.	bih-tuh shurn
Please.	Bitte.	bi-te.
Excuse me. (to call attention)	Entschuldigen Sie!	ent-SHOOL-de-gen zee
Excuse me. (to apologize)	Entschuldigung.	ênt-shool-dee-goong.
Pardon me.	Verzeihen Sie.	fair-TSEYE-en zee
I'm sorry.	Es tut mir leid.	ehs toot meer lite
I'm sorry.	Es tut mir leid.	ehs toot meer lite
yes	ja	yah
no	nein	nine
How are you? (formal)	Wie geht es Ihnen?	vee gayt es ee-nen
How are you? (informal)	Wie geht's?	vee gayts
Let's go!	Gehen wir!	geh-en veer
Can you help me?	Können Sie mir helfen?	ker-nen zee meer hell-fen
What's your name? - formal	Wie heißen Sie?	vee HIGH-sen zee
What's your name? - informal	Wie heißt du?	vee highst doo
My name is _____	Mein Name ist _____	Mine NAH-muh ist ____
My name is ____	Ich heiße ____	ikh HIGH-suh ____
Do you have _____?	Haben Sie _____?	HAB-uhn see _____?
I'd like _____	Ich haette gern _____	ish HAT-uh garn _____
Help!	Hilfe!	HILL-fuh!

## Chapter 2                      - Nouns

Nouns are words that name people, things animals, places and ideas. German nouns are easily identifiable because they all begin with a capital letter regardless of their position in a sentence.

A noun may function as a subject, direct or indirect object, object of a preposition, or object of a dative verb. A noun's case is generally indicated by the article that comes before it. Hence, there are four forms of definite and indefinite articles to modify each case.

### German Cases

Case refers to the grammatical function of a noun or pronoun in a sentence or clause. In German, nouns can have four cases - nominative, accusative, dative, and genitive.

### **Nominative Case**

A noun is in the nominative case when used as a subject or a predicate in a sentence.

When it functions as a subject, a noun performs the action or condition indicated by the verb. A noun is more commonly used as a subject noun than as a predicate noun in the nominative case.

The following are the definite and indefinite articles that modify nouns in the nominative case:

Subject	Definite (the)	Indefinite (a or an)
Masculine	der	ein
Feminine	die	eine
Neuter	das	ein
Plural	die	-

Das Auto läuft schnell.

The car runs fast.

Die Kinder spielen Fußball.

The children play football.

Ein Stift liegt auf dem Boden.

A pen is lying on the floor.

Drew verkauft Autos.

Drew sells cars.

When it functions as a predicate noun or predicate nominative, the noun reiterates the subject(s) and appears with the verbs werden (to become, will), heißen (be called), or sein (to be) and occasionally, with blieben (to stay).

Mein Geschenk ist eine Armbanduhr.

My gift is a wristwatch.

In the above sentence, the subject, “the gift” and “a wristwatch”, refers to one and the same thing.

In the following sentence, the name Karl corresponds to the subject “Mein Vater” (My father):

Mein Vater heißt Karl.

My father’s name is Karl.

Like the above examples, the noun “Cousins” refers to the subjects Monette and Randolph and functions as a predicate noun:

Monette und Randolph sind Cousins.

Monette and Randolph are cousins.

## Accusative Case

The accusative case is also known as the objective case in English. A direct object receives the action of the verb and always takes the accusative case in German. A German noun can be a direct object or object of prepositions in the accusative case.

Here are the forms of definite and indefinite articles that mark nouns in the accusative case:

Subject	Definite (the)	Indefinite (a or an)
Masculine	den	einen
Feminine	die	eine
Neuter	das	ein
Plural	die	-

Take note that only the masculine forms of definite and indefinite articles are declined in the accusative case. For the feminine and neuter gender, you need to use the same articles you normally use in the nominative case.

### Nouns as direct object

A noun functioning as a direct object receives the action performed by the subject or shows the effect of the action.

Er spielt das Saxophon.  
He plays the saxophone.

Der Hund beißt das Kind.  
The dog bites the child.

Der Zoowärter speist den Löwen.  
The zookeeper feeds the lion.

Er brauche einen Freund.

He needs a friend.

Nouns as Object of accusative prepositions

The following prepositions require nouns as objects in the accusative case:

bis	until
durch	through
für	for
gegen	against
ohne	without
pro	per
um	around, at
wider	against

Ein Gepard läuft bei etwa 120 Kilometern pro **Stunde**.  
A cheetah runs at about 120 kilometers per hour.

Er wartete **bis Mittag**.  
He waited until noon.

Er ist **gegen die Filmzensur**.  
He is against film censorship.

Nouns as object of two-way prepositions

Two-way prepositions are used in both accusative and dative case. Their use in the accusative case indicates movement or a shift in location while their use in the dative case expresses location. Two-way prepositions may likewise be required by idiomatic expressions. Here are examples of two-way prepositions:

across, about	über
in front of	vor
in, into	in
behind	hinter
to, toward	an
beside	neben
to, onto, toward	auf
under	unter

between	zwischen
---------	----------

Sie geht in die Bibliothek.  
 She is going to the library.

Sie wartet auf ihren Lehrer.  
 She is waiting for her teacher.

### Expressions of specific time and distance

Expressions of definite time and distance take the accusative case if they don't follow prepositions:

Er verbrachte eine Woche in Paris .  
 He spent a week in Paris.

Das Hotel liegt einen Kilometer vom Büro.  
 The hotel lies one kilometer from the office.

### **The Dative Case**

The dative case is equivalent to the indirect object in English. German nouns in the dative case perform several functions aside from being an indirect object. In the dative case, the noun, the modifiers and the other words connected to it are declined in all genders and numbers.

Here are the forms of modifiers in the dative case:

	Articles			
Subject	Definite (the)	Indefinite (a/an)	Negative	Possessive
Masculine	dem	einem	keinem	meinem
Feminine	der	einer	keiner	meiner
Neuter	dem	einem	keinem	meinem
Plural	den	-	keinen	meinem

### Nouns as Indirect Object

An indirect object tells for whom or to whom an action is being done.

Katrina kauft meiner Mutter einen Kuchen.  
 Katrina buys her mother a cake.



Sie gibt meinem Sohn ein neues Spielzeug.  
She gives her son a new toy.

Nouns as object of a dative verb or dative construction

Some adjectives, verbs, and idiomatic expressions require a dative object.

Here are some verbs that require a dative object but will never take an accusative object.

to answer	antworten
to encounter	begegnen
to thank	danken
to serve	dienen
to threaten	drohen
to occur to	ein•fallen
to be missing	fehlen
to follow	folgen
to be pleasing to	gefallen
to belong to	gehören
to succeed	gelingen
to believe	glauben
to congratulate	gratulieren
to help	helfen
to impress	imponieren
to be sorry	leid tun
to be useful to	nutzen
to suit	passen
to happen to	passieren
to be enough	reichen
to damage	schaden
to taste	schmecken
to be difficult for	schwer•fallen
to trust	vertrauen
to forgive	verzeihen
to hurt	weh•tun
to contradict	widersprechen
to listen to	zu•hören

Hilfst du Marie mit die Hausarbeit?  
Will you help Marie with the housework?

Er diente dem Land mit Ehre und Würde.

He served the country with honor and dignity.

Some adjectives and idiomatic expressions usually appear with dative objects:

similar	ähnlich
pleasant	angenehm
understandable	begreiflich
helpful	behilflich
known	bekannt
comfortable	bequem
thankful	dankbar
foreign	fremd
same	gleich
easy	leicht
useful	nützlich
embarrassing	peinlich
damaging	schädlich
expensive	teuer
related	verwandt
welcome	willkommen

Sie ist dankbar für das Geschenk.

She is thankful for the gift.

Das Auto ist zu teuer für meinen Vater.

The car is too expensive for my father.

### Nouns as Object of Dative Prepositions

Some German prepositions always require a dative noun object. Here are some of them:

from, out of	aus
except for	außer
with, at	bei
opposite, in relation to	gegenüber
with, by means of	mit
to, according to, after	nach
since, for + time period	seit
by, from	von
to	zu

Ich fahre mit dem Bus.  
I'm travelling by bus.

Ich lebe mit meinen Eltern.  
I'm living with my parents.

Nouns as Dative Object of Two-Way Prepositions

Nouns that function as a dative object of two-way prepositions either indicate a location or form an idiomatic expression.

These prepositions are called two-way because you can use them in both accusative and dative case. Here are the two-way prepositions once again:

across, about	über
in front of	vor
in, into	in
behind	hinter
to, toward	an
beside	neben
to, onto, toward	auf
under	Unter
between	Zwischen

Die Katze ist unter dem Tisch.  
The cat is under the table.

Er wird vor dem Bürogebäude.  
He is standing before the building.

**The Genitive Case**

The genitive case indicates a relationship or possession. You can easily find the genitive by asking “whose”. In addition, you can use it as an object of genitive preposition, genitive verb, and genitive construction. It is also useful in expressing indefinite time. The genitive is marked by specific endings in the articles, pronouns and adjectives:

	Articles			
Subject	Definite (the)	Indefinite (a/an)	Negative	Possessive
Masculine	des	eines	keines	meines
Feminine	der	einer	keiner	meiner

Neuter	des	eines	keines	meines
Plural	der		keiner	meiner

### To indicate relationships or possession

In German, possession or relationship is expressed with the use of the genitive case. This is the equivalent of using the apostrophe mark and “s” (’s) or the use of the preposition “of” to indicate possession. For example, in English, you can either say “Carl’s books” or “books of Carl” to express that the books belong to Carl.

Die Farbe meiner Haare ist rot.  
The color of my hair is red.

Der Freund meines Bruders heißt Harry.  
My brother’s friend is named Harry.

The genitive construction commonly follows the noun it modifies except in cases when you need to use a proper noun to indicate possession. In such cases, you will just add an “s” to the proper name. If it ends in an “s”, you will simply add an apostrophe “’” at the end.

Examples:

Marks Vater kommt zu Besuch.  
Mark’s father came to visit.

Hans’ Cousins kommen für einen Kurzurlaub.  
Hans’ cousins come for a short vacation.

The genitive case is more commonly used in written German language. In colloquial and spoken German, however, genitives denoting possessions and relationships are usually supplanted by the pattern “von+dative case”.

Die Farbe von meinen Haare ist rot.  
The color of my hair is red.

Das ist das Haus von meiner Tante.  
That is the house of my aunt.

### Nouns as Object of Genitive Prepositions

An object of a genitive preposition takes the genitive case in standard German. Here are some common genitive prepositions:

instead of	(an)statt
on the occasion of	anlässlich
in place of	anstelle
on the basis of	aufgrund
outside of	außerhalb

with regard to	bezüglich
within	innerhalb
on the other side of	jenseits
by virtue of	kraft
according to	laut
on the part of	seitens
despite, in spite of	trotz
during	während
because of	wegen

Usage:

Sie arbeitet **außerhalb** der Stadt.  
 She works outside the city.

Sie ist abwesend von der Klasse **wegen** ihrer Krankheit.  
 She is absent from the class because of her illness.

### As Object of Genitive Verbs or Genitive Constructions

Some adjectives, verbs, and idiomatic phrases require a genitive object.

Here are the genitive verbs:

to see to	sich annehmen
to make use of	sich bedienen
to be in need of	bedürfen
to take control of	sich bemächtigen
to refrain from	sich enthalten
to think of	gedenken
to boast of	sich rühmen
to make certain of	sich vergewissern

Usage:

Seine Großvater **bedürfen** einer privaten Krankenschwester.  
 His grandmother is in need of a private nurse.

The following are examples of adjectives and idioms that require a genitive object:

certain	sicher
certain	gewiß
in need	bedürftig

guilty	schuldig
worth	wert
conscious	bewusst
suspicious	verdächtig
worthy	würdig

In the following sentence, “schuldig” (guilty) is the genitive adjective that requires the genitive object “des Verbrechens” (the crime):

Er ist des Verbrechens **schuldig**.    He is guilty of the crime.

The adjective “wert” (worth) requires a genitive object and this is provided by “der Mühe” (the effort):

Die Belohnungen sind der Mühe **wert**.    The rewards are worth the effort.

### Expressions of Indefinite Time

Expressions indicating unspecific time take the genitive case when they are not adverbs or objects of a preposition.

Example:

<u>Eines Tages</u> werde ich besuchen Deutschland.	Someday I will visit Germany.
<u>Eines Abends</u> war er in meinem Haus.	One evening, he was at my house.

## Articles

### Definite Article

The definite article is used to talk about a specific subject or something, which is certain or known. It is the equivalent of the English definite article “the”. In German, the definite article is declined to reflect the noun’s case, but all forms still mean “the”. Here are the forms of the definite article in four cases:

Gender	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Singular				
masculine	der	den	dem	des
feminine	die	die	der	der
neuter	das	das	dem	des
plural	die	die	den	der

### The Indefinite Article “ein”

You may use indefinite articles before a noun to indicate its case. The indefinite article “ein” and its other forms translate to the English indefinite articles “a” or “an” and are only useful before singular nouns.

Here are the forms of the indefinite article “ein” in different cases:

Gender	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Singular				
masculine	ein	einen	einem	eines
feminine	eine	eine	einer	einer
neuter	ein	ein	einem	eines

The Indefinite Article “kein”

The indefinite article “kein” is a negative article, which means “no” or “not a”. You can use it before both singular and plural nouns.

Here are the different forms of “kein” under each noun cases:

Gender	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Singular				
masculine	kein	keinen	keinem	keines
feminine	keine	keine	keener	keener
neuter	kein	kein	keinem	keines
Plural	keine	keine	keinen	keener

Gender of Nouns

A German noun can be feminine, masculine or neutral. Gender is indicated by an article that appears with the noun. In this section, you will learn the different patterns for determining a noun’s gender.

**Feminine Nouns**

The following nouns are feminine:

- Nouns designating female persons and animals:

die Mutter	mother
die Mädchen	girl
die Freundin	girlfriend
die Frau	woman
die Schwester	sister
die Kuh	cow
die Ganz	goose

- Nouns ending in –ung, -ei, -keit, -schaft, -tät, , –heit, -nis

die Zeitung	newspaper
die Eröffnung	opening
die Ehrung	ceremony
die Malerei	painting
die Bücherei	library
die Schwierigkeit	difficulty
die Eitelkeit	vanity
die Notwendigkeit	necessity
die Wirtschaft	economy
die Wissenschaft	science
die Elektrizität	electricity
die Universität	university
die Schönheit	beauty
die Gesundheit	health
die Dummheit	stupidity
die Erkenntnis	knowledge

Exception:            der Papagei (parrot)

Nouns of foreign origin ending in -anz, -ie, -ion, -ik, -enz, or -ur

die Biologie	biology
die Magie	magic
die Frequenz	frequency
die Funktion	function
die Musik	music
die Situation	situation
die Diskrepanz	discrepancy
die Toleranz	tolerance
die Kultur	culture
die Prozedur	procedure
die Ethik	ethic

Most nouns ending in -e

die Kirche	church
die Küche	kitchen
die Reise	travel
die Speise	food
die Leute	people
die Farbe	color
die Stunde	hour
die Maschine	machine
die Adresse	address



die Seite	page
die Strasse	street

Exceptions:

der Name	name
der Käse	cheese
der Kunde	customer
das Auge	eye
der Biologe	biologist
das Ende	end
der Affe	monkey

other animals names with –e ending,  
other nouns with male designations.

Most German rivers

die Donau	the Danube
die Mosel	the Moselle
die Weser	the Weser
die Elbe	the Elbe

Exceptions: der Main, der Rhein

Cardinal numbers

die Eins  
die Million  
die Dreizehn

Exception: das Hundert, das Tausend

## **Masculine Nouns**

Nouns that designate male persons and animals:

der Vater	the father
der Mann	the man
der Junge	the boy
der Sohn	son
der Freund	the boyfriend
der Lehrer	the male teacher

der Stier	bull
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Seasons, months, days of the week, most weather elements

der Winter	winter
der Juni	June
der Samstag	Saturday
der Tag	day
der Herbs	autumn
der Schnee	snow
der Regen	rain

Compass Points

der Norden	North
der Osten	East
der Süden	South
der Westen	West

Nouns ending in -ich, -ig, -ling, -us, -or, -er, -ant:

der Teppich	carpet
der Pfennig	penny
der Käfig	cage
der Schmetterling	butterfly
der Tutor	tutor
der Kommunismus	communism
der Zirkus	circus
der Motor	motor
der Kugelschreiber	ballpoint pen
der Toaster	toaster
der Elefant	elephant
der Lieferant	supplier

Most nouns ending in –en

der Ofen	oven
der Garten	garden

Car names (take note, however, that the German word for car, das Auto, is a feminine noun)

der Porsche	
der Volkswagen	

der Toyota

Many non-German rivers

der Nil

Nile River

der Mississippi

Mississippi River

Weak nouns or masculine n-nouns

Weak nouns are special groups of masculine nouns declined differently than other nouns. Besides article inflection, the weak nouns themselves are declined and take an –en or –n ending in most cases, except in the nominative singular. Moreover, nouns that refer to non-living creatures add an –s in the genitive singular.

Most weak nouns can be identified easily and fall into some patterns. The following are classified as weak nouns:

- Masculine nouns ending in an unstressed –e:

Examples:

der Rabe	raven
der Kunde	customer
der Jude	Jew
der Löwe	lion
der Neffe	nephew
der Russe	Russian
der Soziologe	sociologist
der Schwede	Swede
der Schimpanse	chimpanzee

- Foreign-derived nouns that are accented on the final syllable. These nouns usually have the endings –ent, –ast, –ant, –ist, –et, –oph, –nom, and –ot.

Examples:

der Assistent	assistant
der Despot	despot
der Astronom	astronomer

- A few one-syllable masculine nouns designating male creatures:

der Bär	bear
der Bauer	farmer
der Mensch	man

der Narr	fool
der Prinz	prince

The following weak nouns don't fall into any of the above categories:

der Held	hero
der Idiot	idiot
der Pilot	pilot
der Architekt	architect
der Nachbar	neighbor

## Examples of Weak Nouns Declension

der Neffe (the nephew)

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	der Neffe	die Neffen
Accusative	den Neffen	die Neffen
Dative	dem Neffen	den Neffen
Genitive	des Neffen	der Neffen

der Fels (the Rock)

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	der Fels	die Felsen
Accusative	den Felsen	die Felsen
Dative	dem Felsen	den Felsen
Genitive	des Felsens	der Felsen

## Neuter Nouns

The following are classified as neutral nouns:

Human and animal babies

das Kind	child
das Baby	baby
das Kalb	calf
das Lamm	lamb

Nouns formed from verb infinitives

das Essen	food
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das Einkaufen	shopping
das Schlafen	sleep
das Schwimmen	swimming
das Leben	life

Diminutives with –chen and –lein endings including their dialect forms (-erl, -el, -le, -li)

das Kindlein	child
das Fräulein	Miss
das Männlein	male
das Mädchen	girl

Alphabet letters

das A	A
das Ypsilon	Y

Collective nouns that start with Ge-:

das Gebüsch	bushes
das Gepäck	luggage
das Geschirr	dishes
das Geflügel	poultry
das Gebirge	mountains

Nouns of foreign origin ending in um, –tum, or –ment:

das Datum	date
das Museum	museum
das Instrument	instrument
das Experiment	experiment
das Heldentum	heroism

Most metals

das Gold	gold
das Kadmium	cadmium
das Nickel	nickel
das Kupfer	copper

Exception: der Stahl                      steel

**Gender Peculiarities**

**Nouns with More than One Gender**

Some German nouns have more than one gender. They have two categories/classifications:

Nouns spelled in the same way with different meanings:

das Band	tape, ribbon	der Band	volume
das Gehalt	salary	der Gehalt	contents
das Golf	golf	der Golf	gulf
das Messer	knife	der Messer	gauge
das Moment	element, factor	der Moment	moment
das Steuer	steering- wheel	die Steuer	tax
der Heide	pagan	die Heide	heath, moor
der Schild	shield	das Schild	sign
der See	lake	die See	sea, ocean
der Tor	fool	das Tor	gate
der Verdienst	earnings	das Verdienst	merit
der Weise	wise man	die Weise	way, manner
die Kiefer	pine tree	der Kiefer	jaw
die Kunde	information	der Kunde	customer
die Leiter	ladder	der Leiter	leader

Nouns with more than one gender depending on individual or regional preferences:

das or der Joghurt	yogurt
das or der Keks	cookie
das or der Liter	liter
das or der Bonbon	candy
das or der Salbei	sage
das or der Schrot	whole wheat
das or der Virus	virus
das or der Sims	sill, ledge
die or der Sellerie	celery
das or der Poster	poster

## Compound Nouns and their Gender

Compound nouns refer to words formed by combining two or more words. Compound nouns can be a combination of nouns, adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and verb stems, but must always have a noun as the last element. The last word in the compound noun serves as the basis in determining its gender and the plural formation. German accommodates creative inventions of compound nouns; hence, you can find many of them and the list is still growing.

Here are examples of German compound nouns:

frei+die Zeit	die Freizeit	<i>free time</i>
ab+die Fahrt	die Abfahrt	<i>departure</i>
der Arm+das Band+die Uhr	die Armbanduhr	<i>watch</i>
das Jahr+-es-+die Zeit	die Jahreszeit	<i>season</i>
das Haupt+die Stadt	die Hauptstadt	<i>capital city</i>
geh(en)+der Weg	der Gehweg	<i>walkway</i>
schnell+der Zug	der Schnellzug	<i>fast train</i>
zwischen+die Zeit	die Zwischenzeit	<i>meantime</i>
das Haus+der Schuh	der Hausschuh	<i>slippers</i>
der Abend+die Schule	die Abendschule	<i>night school</i>

## Pluralizing Nouns

German nouns form the plural in different ways. They can take the endings –e, -er, -n, -r, -s, -(n)en, or retain their old endings. Plural nouns are indicated by the definite article “die” for all genders. There are exceptions, but German nouns take the following endings to express the plural:

### n(en)

Feminine nouns with –ei, schaft, -heit, and –ung endings form the plural by adding the suffix –en while those ending in –in take –nen.

Examples:

Singular	Plural	Meaning
die Ähnlichkeit	die Ähnlichkeiten	similarity
die Bäckerei	die Bäckereien	bakery
die Datei	die Dateien	file
die Fabrik	die Fabriken	factory
die Forschung	die Forschungen	research
die Krankheit	die Krankheiten	disease
die Lehrerin	die Lehrerinnen	teacher

die Chefin	die Chefinnen	boss
die Leidenschaft	die Leidenschaften	passion
die Nation	die Nationen	nation
die Wohnung	die Wohnungen	apartment

**n**

Most masculine and feminine nouns ending in –e form their plural with the suffix –n. Feminine nouns ending in –el or –er also add –n without an umlaut. Some neuter nouns with –e ending likewise take the –n ending in the pural.

Examples:

Singular	Plural	Meaning
die Lampe	die Lampen	lamp
die Fantasie	die Fantasien	fantasy
die Narzisse	die Narzissen	narcissus
der Name	die Namen	name
die Blume	die Blumen	flower
die Frage	die Fragen	issue
das Auge	die Augen	eyes
die Feder	die Federn	feather
die Schachtel	die Schachteln	box

**-e or an umlaut in the stem + –e**

Almost 90% of masculine nouns, about 25% of feminine nouns and around 73% of neuter nouns form the plural with the pattern –e lor -¨e. Feminine nouns that form their plural with –e always take an umlaut. Masculine nouns do not always take the umlaut while neuter nouns hardly take an umlaut when forming the plural with –e.

Here are examples of these nouns:

Singular	Plural	Meaning
die Angst	die Ängste	fear
das Dokument	die Dokumente	document
die Hand	die Hände	hand
der Friseur	die Friseure	hairdresser
das Gespräch	die Gespräche	conversation
der Fluss	die Flüsse	stream
die Maus	die Mäuse	mouse
der Tag	die Tage	day
das Pferd	die Pferde	horse
die Kraft	die Kräfte	force



der Koch	die Köche	cook
der Tisch	der Tische	table

**-er or -"er**

Some neuter nouns form the plural with –er or an umlaut in the stem+-er.

Singular	Plural	Meaning
das Bad	die Bäder	bath
das licht	die lichter	light
das Eigentum	die Eigentümer	property
der Mund	die Münder	mouth
das Bild	die Bilder	image
der Wald	die Wälder	forest
das Dorf	die Dörfer	village
das Kind	die Kinder	child
Gesicht	die Gesichter	face
das Haus	die Häuser	house

**-s**

Nouns of English, Dutch, and French origin, people’s name, abbreviations, and nouns ending in an unstressed vowel form their plural by adding –s.

Examples:

der Cousin	die Cousins	cousin
der Opa	die Opas	grandpa
das Auto	die Autos	car
das Radio	die Radios	radio
die Kamera	die Kameras	camera
der Schmidt	die Schmidts	the Schmidt
der Park	die Parks	park
die Mutti	die Muttis	mom
das Hobby	die Hobbys	hobby
das Radio	die Radios	radio
die DVD	die DVDs	DVD

**Nouns with identical plural and singular forms or those that add an umlaut to differentiate the plural form**

Masculine nouns ending in –en, -er, -and –el, neuter nouns ending in –chen and –lein, and collective neuter nouns which start with “Ge-” fall into this plural pattern.

Examples:

der Boden	die Böden	floor
der Löffel	die Löffel	spoon
das Fenster	die Fenster	window
das Mädchen	die Mädchen	girl
der Onkel	die Onkel	uncle
das Mittel	die Mittel	medium
der Gürtel	die Gürtel	belt
der Spanier	die Spanier	Spaniard
das Gebirge	die Gebirge	mountain
der Lehrer	die Lehrer	teacher
der Apfel	die Äpfel	apples
der Vetter	die Vetter	cousin
der Lkw	die Lkws	truck
das Klassenzimmer	die Klassenzimmer	classroom

**Adjectival Nouns**

Adjectival nouns are those formed from adjectives or participles functioning as adjectives. Some are useful in determining masculine or feminine nouns and are declined like adjectives.

Examples:

Adjective	Adjectival Noun	Adjective	Noun
alt	der/die Alte	<i>old</i>	<i>old person</i>
blind	der/die Blinde	<i>blind</i>	<i>blind person</i>
deutsch	der/die Deutsche	<i>German</i>	<i>German person</i>
verlobt	der/die Verlobte	<i>engaged</i>	<i>fiancé(e)</i>
geliebt	der/die Geliebte	<i>loved</i>	<i>lover</i>
gefangen	der/die Gefangene	<i>captive</i>	<i>prisoner</i>
	der/die		

jugendlich	Jugendliche	<i>youthful</i>	<i>adolescent</i>
erwachsen	der/die Erwachsene	<i>grown</i>	<i>adult</i>
bekannt	der/die Bekannte	<i>known</i>	<i>acquaintance</i>
angestellt	der/die Angestellte	<i>employed</i>	<i>employee</i>
fremd	der/die Fremde	<i>foreign</i>	<i>foreigner</i>
krank	der/die Kranke	<i>sick</i>	<i>sick person</i>
arm	der/die Arme	<i>poor</i>	<i>poor person</i>
verwandt	der/die Verwandte	<i>related</i>	<i>relative</i>
reisend	der/die Reisende	<i>traveling</i>	<i>traveler</i>
verletzt	der/die Verletzte	<i>hurt</i>	<i>injured person</i>
tot	der/die Tote	<i>dead</i>	<i>dead person</i>
gelehrt	der/die Gelehrte	<i>educated</i>	<i>scholar</i>

Neuter adjectival nouns are used to refer to concepts or ideas.

Examples:

Adjective	Adjectival Noun	Adjective	Noun
best	das Beste	best	the best thing
gut	das Gute	good	the good thing
ganz	das Ganze	whole	the whole thing
möglich	das Mögliche	possible	the possible
neu	das Neue	new	the new
richtig	das Richtige	right	the right
schön	das Schöne	beautiful	the beautiful
teuer	das Teure	expensive	the expensive
wichtig	das Wichtige	important	the important

### Infinitive Nouns

A verb in its infinitive form works as a noun by capitalizing its initial letter. All infinitive nouns are neuter and they generally correspond to the English gerund form.

Examples:

German Infinitive	Meaning	Infinitive Noun	Meaning
lesen	<i>to read</i>	das Lesen	<i>reading</i>

gehen	<i>to go</i>	das Gehen	<i>going, walking</i>
lachen	<i>to laugh</i>	das Lachen	<i>laughing</i>
einkaufen	<i>to shop</i>	das Einkaufen	<i>shopping</i>
trinken	<i>to drink</i>	das Trinken	<i>drinking</i>
schwimmen	<i>to swim</i>	das Schwimmen	<i>swimming</i>
jammern	<i>to whine</i>	das Jammern	<i>whining</i>
flüstern	<i>to whisper</i>	das Flüstern	<i>whispering</i>

# Chapter 3

## - Pronouns

Pronouns take the place of nouns. In general, German pronouns agree with the case, number and gender of the noun they replace. Pronouns are categorized as personal, possessive, reflexive, relative, demonstrative, indefinite and interrogative.

### Personal Pronouns

Both German and English pronouns have different forms to indicate number, gender and case. German, however, has two sets of pronouns to express “you” – the informal and formal. In addition, the informal “you” has a separate form to distinguish the plural.

The singular informal form of “you” is “du” and its plural form is “ihr”. It addresses children and people who are on familiar terms with the speaker.

The formal form of “you” is “Sie” in both plural and singular. It uses the same conjugation patterns used in the third person and always begins with a capital letter. It addresses older people, superiors and new acquaintances.

The German pronoun for they is “sie”, which is written in lower case unless used to start a sentence.

Personal pronouns are commonly used in the nominative case.

Here are the plural and singular forms of personal pronouns in the nominative, accusative, dative and genitive cases:

	Singular					
	First Person		Second Person		Third Person	
	German	English	German	English	German	English
Nom	ich	I	du	you	er/sie/es	he/she/it
Acc	mich	me	dich	you	ihn/sie/es	him/her/it
Dat	mir	me	dir	you	ihm/ihr/ihm	him/her/it
Gen	meiner	mine/my	deiner	yours	seiner/ihrer/ seiner	his/her(s)/its

	Plural						Formal
	First Person		Second Person		Third Person		2nd Person
	German	English	German	English	German	English	German
Nom	wir	we	ihr	you	sie	they	Sie
Acc	uns	us	euch	you	sie	them	Sie
Dat	uns	us	euch	you	ihnen	them	Ihnen

Gen	unser	our(s)	euer	your(s)	ihrer	their(s)	Ihrer
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Examples of Usage:

*Nominative*

Ich bin ein Lehrer.  
I am a teacher.

Ich habe Hanger.  
I’m hungry.

Sie sind ein toller Gastgeber.  
You are a great host.

Er ist ein guter Sänger.  
He is a great singer.

Wir werden im nächsten Sommer nach Deutschland.  
We are going to Germany next summer.

Sie lieben Fußball.  
They love football.

**Interrogative Pronouns**

German interrogative pronouns are question words that begin with “w”. Most interrogative pronouns have direct English translation. Examples:

Was?	What?
Warum?	Why?
Wie?	How?
Wann?	When?

The German words for “who” and “where”, however, deviate from their English equivalent pronoun.

The question word “who” is declined in all cases:

Case	Pronoun	Meaning
Nom	Wer?	Who?
Acc	Wen?	Whom?
Dat	Wem?	to whom?
Gen	Wessen?	Whose?

The pronoun “where” takes the following forms:

Wo?	Where at?
Wohin?	Where to?
Woher?	Where from?

The pronoun “wo” may be affixed before a preposition to form a new question word. To facilitate smooth pronunciation, an “r” is inserted after “wo” when the preposition starts with a vowel.

Examples:

Wofür ist das?	What’s this for?
Worüber sprichst du?	What are you talking about?

Interrogative pronouns may also function as relative pronouns, but are not declined unlike other relative pronouns.

### Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are required as direct or indirect objects in sentences with reflexive verbs and are only used in the dative or accusative case. They are more commonly used in German than in English because there are more reflexive verbs in German. Reflexive pronouns have the following forms:

	Singular			Plural			Formal
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2nd
	myself	yourself	himself/herself/	ourselves	yourselves	themselves	yourself
			itself				
Acc	mich	dich	sich	uns	euch	sich	sich
Dat	mir	dir	sich	uns	euch	sich	sich

# Chapter 4

## - Verbs

A verb denotes an action or condition. In general, German verbs are conjugated to reflect the mood, tense, person, gender and number.

### Verb Moods

The mood of a verb indicates the attitude or perception of the speaker towards what is being expressed in a sentence. The German language has four verb moods - the indicative, subjunctive I, subjunctive II and the imperative mood.

#### **The Indicative (Indikativ) Mood**

The indicative mood is used to state or describe reality in the past, present, or future. It is the most commonly used mood in both German and English.

Examples:

Ich esse Mittagessen um 12 Uhr mittags.  
I eat lunch at 12 o'clock noon.

Wir arbeiten hart während des Tages.  
We work hard during the day.

#### **Subjunctive (Konjunktiv) I**

The Subjunctive I mood is used to convey another person's thoughts, words, or opinions. It is most commonly used in news reporting.

Examples:

Er sagte, er noch nicht bereit ist.  
He said he is not ready yet.

Er gab zu, dass seine Frau krank ist.  
He admitted that his wife is sick.

#### **Subjunctive (Konjunktiv) II**

The Subjunctive II Mood is used in expressing hypothetical actions, wishes, possibilities and unrealistic situations. This mood is the equivalent of English conditional mood and commonly uses the verb "werden" in the same way that "would" is used in English conditional statements. The Subjunctive II mood only exists in the past and present tenses.



Examples:

Ich würde die Geige gespielt haben.  
I would have played the violin.

Wir würden trinken frische Fruchtsäfte auf der Veranda.  
We would drink fresh fruit juices on the porch.

## **The Imperative (Imperativ) Mood**

The imperative mood is used in expressing commands. It exists in the present tense and in the second person singular and plural and less frequently, in the first person plural. A German infinitive is sometimes used to convey a command.

To express the imperative, you will use the following forms:

du	use the present tense but drop the –st ending
ihr	use the present tense
Sie	use the present tense + Sie + bitte (please)
wir	use the present tense + wir

Examples:

Trink deine Milch jetzt.	Drink your milk now.
Spielt das Klavier jetzt.	Play the piano now.
Spielen Sie bitte das Klavier.	Please play the piano.
Spielen wir das Klavier.	Let's play the piano.

## **German Verb Types**

German verbs usually end in –n or –en in the infinitive and may be grouped into the following categories:

Auxiliary verbs  
Modal verbs  
Regular Verbs  
Irregular Verbs  
Mixed Verbs

## **Auxiliary Verbs**

Auxiliary verbs are used to construct compound tenses. German uses three auxiliary verbs:

sein	to be
haben	to have
werden	will/would

Modal Verbs

A modal verb modifies the main verby by indicating obligation, possibility, ability, desire or permission. German uses the following modal verbs:

dürfen	may
können	can
sollen	should
mögen	to like to
müssen	must
wollen	to want to
möchten	would like to

Modal verbs have the following forms in the present tense:

	dürfen	können	sollen	mögen	müssen	wollen	möchten
ich	darf	kann	soll	mag	muss	will	möchte
du	darfst	kannst	sollst	magst	musst	willst	möchtest
er/sie/es	darf	kann	soll	mag	muss	will	möchte
wir	dürfen	können	sollen	mögen	müssen	wollen	möchten
ihr	dürft	könnt	sollt	mögt	müsst	wollt	möchtet
sie/Sie	dürfen	können	sollen	mögen	müssen	wollen	möchten

The modal verb takes the second position while the main verb is placed at the end of the sentence.

Examples:

Ich <b>darf</b> im Büro arbeiten.	I may work in the office.
Ich <b>kann</b> im Büro arbeiten.	I can work in the office.
Ich <b>soll</b> im Büro arbeiten.	I should work in the office.
Ich <b>mag</b> im Büro arbeiten.	I like to work in the office.
Ich <b>muss</b> im Büro arbeiten.	I must work in the office.
Ich <b>will</b> im Büro arbeiten.	I want to work in the office.
Ich <b>möchte</b> im Büro arbeiten.	I would like to work in the office.

Regular Verbs (Regelmäßige Verben)

Regular verbs or weak verbs follow a predictable pattern of conjugation and never change their stem when conjugated. To form the different tenses, you will use the present infinitive stem and add the endings under each mood, tense and person.

For example, the verb folgen (to follow) is a regular verb and its verb stem is obtained by dropping the –en ending; hence, the stem is folg and you will simply add the personal endings.

The present indicative tense has the following endings:

Subject	Ending
Ich	-e
du	-st
er/sie/es	-t
wir	-en
ihr	-t
sie/Sie	-en

For verb stems ending in –t, -d, -m, or –n, the du form, er/sie/es forms, and ihr form add –e before the regular endings to ease pronunciation.

Hence, to conjugate the verbs folgen (to follow), arbeiten (to work) and reden (to talk), you will have the following forms:

Infinitive	folgen	arbeiten	reden
Stem	folg	arbeit	red
Ich	folge	arbeite	rede
du	folgst	arbeitest	redest
er/sie/es	folgt	arbeitet	redet
wir	folgen	arbeiten	reden
ihr	folgt	arbeitet	redet
sie/Sie	folgen	arbeiten	reden

Here are other examples of regular verbs:

to answer	antworten
to build	bauen
to mean	bedeuten
to train/form	bilden
to thank	Danken
to develop	entwickeln

to remember	erinnern
to explain	erklären
to reach	erreichen
to tell/narrate	erzählen
to lack	fehlen
to ask	fragen
to feel	fühlen
to lead	führen
to belong	gehören
to believe	glauben
to trade/ deal	handeln
to interest	interessieren
to buy	kaufen
to buy	kaufen
to take care	kümmern
to live	leben
to put	legen
to learn	lernen
to make	machen
to paint	malen
to believe, to assume	meinen
to use	nutzen
to rain	regnen
to say	sagen
to like, to taste	schmecken
to play	spielen
to study	studieren
to look for	suchen
to dance	tanzen
to dream	träumen
to sell	verkaufen
to try	versuchen
to wait	warten
to live	wohnen
to show	zeigen

## Irregular Verbs

Irregular verbs or strong verbs change their stem to indicate verb tenses. Stem changes are generally unpredictable, and you need to learn them individually. In addition, irregular verbs do not always change their stem to convey every tense. All German irregular verbs, however, add –en

to form the past participle.

To ____	Infinitive	Present
	Form	Tense
bake	backen	backt
command, order	befehlen	befiehlt
begin	beginnen	beginnt
bite	beißen	beißt
deceive	betrügen	betrügt
move	bewegen	bewegt
bend, turn	biegen	biegt
bid, offer	bieten	bietet
tie	binden	bindet
request	bitten	bittet
sound, blow	blasen	bläst
stay, remain	bleiben	bleibt
roast	braten	brät
break	brechen	bricht
burn	brennen	brennt
bring	bringen	bringt
think	denken	denkt
be allowed to	dürfen	darf
recommend	empfehlen	empfiehlt
be frightened	erschrecken	erschrickt
eat	essen	isst
go	fahren	drive
fall	fallen	fällt
catch	fangen	fängt
find	finden	findet
fly	fliegen	fliegt
flee	fliehen	flieht
flow	fließen	fließt
freeze, be cold	frieren	friert
give	geben	gibt
flourish, prosper	gedeihen	gedeiht
go, walk	gehen	geht
succeed	gelingen	gelingt
be valid, be of value	gelten	gilt
enjoy	genießen	genießt
fall/get into	geraten	gerät

happen	geschehen	geschieht
win, gain	gewinnen	gewinnt
pour	gießen	gießt
resemble	gleichen	gleicht
glide, slide	gleiten	gleitet
dig	graben	gräbt
grasp, hold	greifen	greift
have	haben	hat
hold	halten	hält
be hanging	hängen	hängt
raise, left	heben	hebt
be called	heißen	heißt
help	helfen	hilft
know a person/place	kennen	kennt
sound	klingen	klingt
come	kommen	kommt
can, to be able	können	kann
crawl	kriechen	kriecht
load, invite	laden	lädt
let	lassen	lässt
run	laufen	läuft
suffer	leiden	leidet
lend out	leihen	leiht
read	lesen	liest
lie in a place	liegen	liegt
tell lies	lügen	lügt
measure	messen	misst
like	mögen	mag
have to, must	müssen	muss
take	nehmen	nimmt
call, name	nennen	nennt
whistle, pipe	pfeifen	pfeift
advise, guess	raten	rät
rub	reiben	reibt
tear, rip	reißen	reißt
ride on a horse	reiten	reitet
run	rennen	rennt
smell	riechen	riecht
call, shout	rufen	ruft
separate	scheiden	scheidet
seem, shine	scheinen	scheint

push, shove	schieben	schiebt
shoot	schießen	schießt
sleep	schlafen	schläft
hit, beat	schlagen	schlägt
shut, conclude	schließen	schließt
cut	schneiden	schneidet
write	schreiben	schreibt
shout, yell	schreien	schreit
be silent	schweigen	schweigt
swell	schwellen	schwillt
swim	schwimmen	schwimmt
swing	schwingen	schwingt
swear (under oath)	schwören	schwört
see	sehen	sieht
be	sein	ist
send	senden	sendet
sing	singen	singt
sink	sinken	sinkt
sit	sitzen	sitzt
be obliged	sollen	soll
speak	sprechen	spricht
jump, spring	springen	springt
sting, prick	stechen	sticht
stand	stehen	steht
steal	stehlen	stiehlt
rise, mount	steigen	steigt
die	sterben	stirbt
stink	stinken	stinkt
push, kick	stoßen	stößt
quarrel, clash	streiten	streitet
carry, wear	tragen	trägt
meet, hit	treffen	trifft
force, drive	treiben	treibt
step, go	treten	tritt
drink	trinken	trinkt
do	tun	tut
hide, conceal	verbergen	verbirgt
spoil, ruin	verderben	verdirbt
forget	vergessen	vergisst
leave a person/place	verlassen	verlässt
lose	verlieren	verliert

avoid	vermeiden	vermeidet
disappear	verschwinden	verschwindet
excuse, pardon	verzeihen	verzeiht
grow	wachsen	wächst
wash	waschen	wäscht
turn	wenden	wendet
advertise	werben	wirbt
become	warden	wird
throw	werfen	wirft
weigh	wiegen	wiegt
know (a fact)	wissen	weiß
want	wollen	will
pull, draw, go	ziehen	zieht
force, compel	zwingen	zwingt

**Mixed Verbs**

Mixed verbs take specific characteristics from both regular and irregular verbs. Like regular verbs, they add the suffix –e(t) or –te to form the past participle and simple past and like irregular verbs, they change their stem when conjugated.

Here are the stem changes of some mixed verbs in the present, past and past participle:

	Stem Changes		
Infinitive	Simple Present	Simple Past	Past Participle
	(3rd pers. sing.)	(3rd pers. sing.)	
brennen	--	brannte	gebrannt
denken	--	dachte	gedacht
kennen	--	kannte	gekannt
wissen	weiß	wusste	gewusst
wenden	--	wandte	gewandt

**Verb Tenses**

German verbs can have six tenses that can be classified into two categories: finite and compound tenses.



There are only two finite tenses:

- present tense
- simple past

There are four compound tenses:

- Future
- Present perfect
- Past Perfect
- Future perfect

**The Present Tense (Präsens)**

German has only one form for the present tense, which is used to convey several present tense forms in English.

Examples:

Ich arbeite.	I work. I am working. I do work.
Du sprichst.	You speak. You are speaking. You do speak.
Er liest.	He reads. He is reading. He does read.
Wir schreiben.	We write. We are writing. We do write.

In addition, the present tense is generally used to talk about an event or action that will occur in the immediate future.

Ich spiele Fußball morgen. I’m playing football tomorrow.

To distinguish the different aspects of the present tense, adverbs are commonly used to indicate time.

Examples:

Ich arbeite jeden Tag.	I work everyday.
Ich arbeite gerade.	I am working right now.
Ich arbeite morgen.	I am working tomorrow.

The conjugation patterns of regular verbs in the present tense are as follows:

ich	I	-e
du	You	-st
er/sie/es	he/she/it	-t
wir	we	-en
ihr	you (plural)	-t
sie/Sie	they/you (formal)	-en

# The Simple Past Tense (Präteritum/Imperfekt)

There are two ways to express the past in German: the simple past/imperfect and the present perfect. Both denote events or actions that occurred in the past, but differ in their forms and usage. The simple past is the narrative, formal, or written past tense expressed in one-word verbs. The present perfect is more commonly used in speech and is otherwise known as the informal past tense.

Verbs in the simple past take the second position in declarative sentences and the first position in yes-no interrogative sentences. Separable verb prefixes, complementary infinities, and other verbal parts are placed at the end of the sentence. Because the simple past is in the written form, the second person verb forms for du, ihr, and Sie are not frequently used.

## Forming the Simple Past Tense

### Past Tense of Regular/Weak Verbs

To form the past tense of regular verbs, you have to isolate the stem of the verb in its present infinitive form and add the following endings:

Subject	English	Endings
ich	I	-te
du	you	-test
er/sie/es	he/she/it	-te
wir	we	-ten
ihr	you (plural)	-tet
sie/Sie	they/you (formal)	-ten

Examples:

Ich <b>folgte</b> ihm.	I followed him.
Sie <b>sagte</b> ja.	She said yes.
Er <b>reinigte</b> das Haus.	He cleaned the house.

The simple past tense with separable prefix verbs:

Sie <b>brachte</b> ihr Sohn <b>mit</b> .	She brought her son along.
--	----------------------------

Verbs with a stem ending in –d, –t, –m, or –n after a consonant must take an –e before adding the –te, –tet, or –test ending.

For example, to conjugate the verb arbeiten (to work), you will have these verb forms:

I	Ich arbeitete.
---	----------------

you	Du arbeitetest
he/she/it	Er/Sie/Es arbeitete.
we	Wir arbeiteten.
you	Ihr arbeitetet.
they/You	Sie/Sie arbeiteten.

In the wir, sie, and Sie forms, the suffix –te is combined with the personal ending –en and becomes –ten instead of writing the –e twice.

To conjugate the verbs tanzen (to dance), fühlen (to feel), and reisen (to travel), you will have:

Subject	tanzen	fühlen	reisen
ich	tanzte	fühlte	reiste
du	tanztest	fühltest	reistest
er/sie/es	tanzte	fühlte	reiste
wir	tanzten	fühlten	reisten
ihr	tanztet	fühltet	reistet
sie/Sie	tanzten	fühlten	reisten

### Simple Past Tense of Irregular (Strong Verbs)

Irregular verbs express the simple past tense by changing their stem and adding personal endings. There are different ways through which irregular verbs change their stem and must be learned individually.

Here are the endings of irregular verbs in the simple past tense:

Subject	Ending
ich	-
du	-st
er/sie/es	-
wir	-en
ihr	-t
sie/Sie	-en

To conjugate the verbs sprechen (to speak), gehen (to go), and fliegen (to fly), you will have the following verb forms:

Subject	sprechen	gehen	fliegen
ich	sprach	ging	flog
du	sprachst	gingst	flogst
er/sie/es	sprach	ging	flog
wir	sprachen	gingen	flogen

ihr	spracht	gingt	flogt
sie/Sie	sprachen	gingen	flogen

Simple Past Tense of Mixed Verbs

Mixed verbs form the simple past tense by changing their stem like irregular verbs and adding the personal endings for regular verbs.

For example, to conjugate the verb brennen (to burn), you'll have the following verb forms:

Subject	Ending
ich	brannte
du	branntest
er/sie/es	brannte
wir	brannten
ihr	branntet
sie/Sie	brannten

Active vs. Passive Voice

**Active Voice**

The active voice is the regular voice through which the subject is the performer of the action and is used in the nominative case. The receiver or object of the verb is in the accusative case.

Example:

Marlene liest die Bücher jeden Tag.                      Marlene reads books everyday.

**Passive Voice**

In the passive voice, the subject of the sentence is the receiver or object of the verb's action. To construct sentences in the passive voice, you will use the conjugated form of werden + the past participle of the main verb. The subject is usually not expressed in passive sentences but may be indicated with the use of von + dative noun case. This is the equivalent of the expression “done by \_\_\_\_” in English.

Die Bücher **werden** jeden Tag **gelesen**.  
The books are read everyday.

Die Bücher **werden** von Marlene jeden Tag gelesen.  
The books are read by Marlene everyday.

## The Verbs Sein, Haben, and Werden

Sein (to be), haben (to have), and werden (to become) are the most common verbs in German. They are irregular verbs that function as auxiliary verbs to form compound tenses.

## Sein (to be)

The verb *sein* has irregular forms like its English counterpart. It has the following forms in the present and perfect tenses:

ich	Present	Meaning	Past Perfect	Meaning
ich	bin	I am	war	I was
du	bist	you are	warst	you were
er/sie/es	ist	he/she/it is	war	he/she/it was
wir	sind	we are	waren	we were
ihr	seid	you are	wart	you were
sie/Sie	sind	They/You are	waren	they/You were

The verbs sein and haben are both used in constructing the perfect tense. The perfect tense is the most common past tense in German and is used in three situations:

- to refer to past actions  
Sie spielte das Klavier gestern.                      She played the piano yesterday.
- to denote past actions that continue to the present  
Ich bin nach Deutschland gereist.                  I have travelled to Germany.
- to indicate past actions for completion in the future  
Wir haben es nächste Woche geschafft.  
We will have it made next week.

## Haben (to have)

The verb *haben* has the following conjugation in the present tense:

ich	habe	I have
du	du hast	You have
er/sie/es	hat	he/she/it has
wir	haben	we have
ihr	habt	you have
sie/Sie	haben	they have

**When to use “sein” or “haben” as auxiliary verb**

The following situations require the use of the verb “sein” as auxiliary verb:

- Sein is used with the verbs “warden”, “sein”, “bleiben”, and “passieren”.
- It is used for non-reflexive and intransitive verbs that denote movements or change in condition or state. Examples are springen (to jump), rennen (to run), fallen (to fall), laufen (to run), gehen (to walk), schmelzen (to melt), and sterben (to die).

In all other cases, the auxiliary verb “haben” is generally used.

**Werden (to become)**

When used as a full verb, werden means “to become or to turn into”.

Sie wurde selbstgefällig.                      She became complacent.

Werden is used as an auxiliary verb in the future tense and the perfect future.

Examples:

Es wird schneien.    It will snow.  
Ich werde es nächste Woche haben.                      I’ll have done it next week.

Here is warden’s conjugation in the present tense:

ich	werde	I become
du	wirst	you become
er/sie/es	wird	he becomes
wir	werden	we become
ihr	iwerdet	you become
sie/Sie	werden	they become

**Reflexive Verbs**

A reflexive verb denotes an action in which the performer or subject is also the receiver or object of the action. Reflexives are used much more extensively in German as they are in English and they occur in two cases: the accusative and dative case. You will use them often to talk about personal

hygiene and body care. Most reflexive verbs are in the accusative case and all require reflexive pronouns to indicate the object of the action. Reflexive pronouns are generally placed after the verb.

Examples:

Ich wasche mich.	I’m washing myself.
Er kleidet sich.	He dresses himself.
Er rasiert sich.	He is shaving himself.
Wir ziehen uns.	We’re getting dressed.
Sie waschen sich.	You wash yourself.

Take note that reflexive verbs can have non-reflexive forms and use, and will therefore not require a reflexive pronoun.

For example, in the sentence “Ich wasche das Auto”, (I wash the car), the verb wasche is used non-reflexively and does not require a reflexive pronoun.

Some German reflexive verbs actually take on a different meaning when used in the non-reflexive form.

Examples:

Reflexive verb	Meaning	Non-reflexive	Meaning
sich versprechen	misspeak	versprechen	to promise
sich umziehen	change clothes	umziehen	move house

Reflexive verbs are preceded by the reflexive pronoun “sich” when listed as an infinitive in a standard dictionary. Here are the most commonly used reflexive verbs:

to look after	sich annehmen
to get dressed	sich anziehen
to be angry	sich ärgern
to take a bath	sich baden
to say thank you	sich bedanken
to serve oneself	sich bedienen
to hurry	sich beeilen
to hurry	sich beeilen
to make an effort	sich bemühen
to behave oneself	sich benehmen
to drink too much	sich besaufen
to deal with	sich beschäftigen mit
to prove oneself	sich bewähren
to apply	sich bewerben
	sich die Mühe

to take the trouble	geben
to turn around	sich drehen um
to shower	sich duschen
to be suitable	sich eignen
to sneak into	sich einschleichen
escape, elude	sich entziehen
to recover	sich erholen
to remember	sich erinnern
to catch cold	sich erkälten
to anticipate	sich freuen auf
to be happy about	sich freuen über
to look forward to	sich freuen über
to get accustomed to	sich gewöhnen an
to be mistaken	sich irren
to comb hair	sich kämmen
to be stationary	sich kein Rad drehen
to focus on	sich konzentrieren
to shave	sich rasieren
to point at	sich richten an
to be based on	sich richten nach
to feel ashamed	sich schämen
to forget	sich schenken
to sit down	sich setzen
to fool oneself	sich täuschen
to meet	sich treffen
to consider	sich überlegen
to make sure	sich vergewissern
to rely on	sich verlassen auf
to fall in love	sich verlieben
to be late	sich verspäten
to seem	sich vorkommen
to introduce self	sich vorstellen
to wash oneself	sich waschen
to refuse	sich weigern
to wonder about	sich wundern über
to turn into	zu etwas auswaschsen
to move	bewegen



# Chapter 5

## - Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe or modify nouns or pronouns. Adjectives are classified as predicate adjectives, adverbial and attributive adjectives. In general, German adjectives precede the word they modify. While both predicate and adverbial adjectives are invariable, attributive adjectives are declined to reflect the case, number and gender of the noun they describe. The determiner used before them also influence the type of declension required.

### **Predicative Adjectives**

Predicative adjectives are those that come after the verbs sein, werden and bleiben. The endings are invariable regardless of the case, number and gender of the noun they describe.

Der Schwimmer ist stark.	The swimmer is strong.
Die Blumen sind schön.	The flowers are beautiful.

### **Adverbial Adjectives**

Adverbial adjectives come after verbs other than sein, werden and bleiben. Like predicative adjectives, adverbs are not declined.

Der Schwimmer schwimmt stark.	The swimmer swims strongly.
Die Blumen blühen reichlich .	The flowers bloom abundantly.

### **Attributive Adjectives**

Attributive adjectives come before the noun and after the article that modifies the noun.

Die starke Schwimmerin gewann die Meisterschaft.  
The strong swimmer won the championship.

Die intelligente und schöne Student gewann viele Auszeichnungen .  
The smart and beautiful student won many awards.

### **Declension of Adjectives**

Attributive adjectives are declined in different ways and their manner of declension is dependent on the type of modifiers or determiners used before them.

### **Strong Declension**

Strong declension is required when the modifiers or articles used have endings that do not clearly indicate the case, number, and gender of the word being modified.

Strong declension is used in the following situations:

- No article is used
- When the adjective appears after a number adjective with no ending
- When the adjective comes after a pronoun other than “mir”, “dir”, and “ihm”
- The adjective comes after “mehr”(more) or “etwas” (somewhat/some), “viele (many), or “einige” (some)
- The adjective is preceded by “ein Paar” (a couple, few), “ein wenig”(a few), “etliche” (some), “mehrere-” (many/several), “folgende” (the following), ein bisschen (a bit), “wessen” (whose), “wie viel” (how much)

Strong Declension Table for Adjectives

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine, singular	-er	-en	-em	-en
Feminine, singular	-e	-e	-er	-er
Neuter, singular	-es	-es	-em	-en
Plural	-e	-e	-en	-er

Examples:

Starker Kaffee ist erhebend.  
Strong coffee is uplifting.

Frisches Brot ist ein energiereiches Frühstück.  
Fresh bread is an energizing breakfast.

Weak Declension

Weak declension is used when determiners have endings that clearly express the case, gender and number of the noun being modified. Adjectives that require weak declension may only take the “e” or “en” ending.

The following situations warrant the use of weak adjective declension:

- When the adjective comes after a definite article
- When it follows the pronouns “dieser” (this), “jener” (that), “jeder” (every), and “jeglih-” (any) which are inflected like definite articles
- When the adjective appears after “dir”, “mir”, and “ihm”

- When placed after “alle” (all), “beide” (both), “arm” (meager), and “alt”(old)
- When it comes after “welch-” (which), “solch-” (such), and “manch-” (some) which are declined like definite articles
- When it comes after “derjenic-” (the one) and “derselb-” (the same)

Here’s the table for weak declension:

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine, singular	-e	-en	-en	-en
Feminine, singular	-e	-e	-en	-en
Neuter, singular	-e	-e	-en	-en
Plural	-en	-en	-en	-en

Die mutige Frau jagte den Verbrecher.  
The brave woman chased the criminal.

Alle neuen Spieler sind begeistert.  
All new players are excited.

## Mixed Declension

Mixed declension is used when the adjective is placed after possessive determiners and the indefinite articles “ein” and “kein”.

Declension Table for Mixed Adjectives

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine, singular	-er	-en	-en	-en
Feminine, singular	-e	-e	-en	-en
Neuter, singular	-es	-es	-en	-en
Plural	-en	-en	-en	-en

## Exception: Attributive adjectives which are not declined

Some adjectives don’t change their endings:

- Plural limiting adjective: “ein Paar” (a few)
- Singular limiting adjectives: “viel” (much)“etwas” (something), genug” (enough) , and “wenig” (little)

**German Possessive Adjectives**

The German genitive case, which is used to express possession, is rarely used. The use of possessive adjectives is the more common way to show ownership. Possessive adjectives are declined to show the case, and the gender and number of the noun possessed. Before you can inflect possessive adjectives, you must know the stem:

German	English
mein-	mine
deine-	your
sein-	his
ihr-	her
sein-	its
uns(e)r	our
eu(e)r	your
ihr-	their
ihr-	your (formal)

Here are the endings for possessive adjectives under the four cases:

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Nominative	-	-e	-	-e
Accusative	-en	-e	-	-e
Dative	-em	-er	-em	en
Genitive	-es	-er	-es	-er

For example, to express “my dog”, you’ll use the stem “mein-“and inflict it with the ending for singular masculine noun (dog is a masculine noun). Hence, my dog is “mein Hund”. To say “my cat”, you’ll use the stem “mein-” again and inflict it the ending for singular feminine noun (cat is a feminine noun). You’ll have “meine Katze”. To say “my bunny”, you’ll again take the stem “mein-” and inflict it with the ending for neutral noun as Kaninchen, bunny, is a neuter noun. Hence, you’ll have “mein Kaninchen”. When you state ownership of a noun in the plural form, say birds, you’ll inflict “mein-” with the plural ending to express “meine Vögel”, my birds.

In general, German and English both use the basic sentence pattern Subject + Verb + Other Elements.

Anna verkauft Skulpturen.	Anna sells sculptures.
---------------------------	------------------------

Sie isst Kuchen.	She eats cakes.
------------------	-----------------

Ich lese Zeitschriften.	I read magazines.
-------------------------	-------------------

Sie ist wunderschön.	She is beautiful.
----------------------	-------------------

German, however, is more flexible in terms of word order and other elements may be placed in the beginning of a statement instead of a subject. The finite or conjugated verb, however, must stay in the second position.

For example, a standard statement can be written as:

Ich habe ein Auto.	I have a car.
--------------------	---------------

The subject, ich (I), however, may be moved to position 3 and still convey the same meaning:

Ein auto habe ich.	I have a car.
--------------------	---------------

Take note that the conjugated verbs remained in the second position.

## Compound Verbs

In English, compound verbs like “are studying”, “is cooking”, and “am writing” always appear together. In German, however, compound verbs may take separate positions. The conjugated verb retains the second position while the accompanying verb usually takes the final position in the clause or sentence.

Example:

Ich <u>werde</u> es bald <u>gehen</u> .
I will go there soon.

Sie <u>wird</u> einen Kuchen morgen <u>backen</u> .
She will bake a cake tomorrow.

## Word order in questions

### Questions with question words

In interrogative sentences using question words such as *wer*, *wann*, *wie*, *wo*, etc., the conjugated verbs retain the second position while the subject takes the third position.

Wann hast Du Geburtstag?	When is your birthday?
Warum bist du hier?	Why are you here?
Was ist das Problem?	What is the problem?

### Yes-No Questions

Forming yes-no questions in German is easy if you know your basic word order. You will simply move the verb to the first position in the sentence.

For example:

#### Declarative Sentences

Du bist Marlowe.  
You are Marlowe.

#### Yes – No Questions

Bist du Marlowe?  
Are you Marlowe?

Sie sind verheiratet.  
You are married.

Sind Sie verheiratet?  
Are you married?

### **Imperative Sentences**

When giving direct instructions in imperative sentences, the conjugated verb takes the first position:

Lass mich allein!  
Ruf den Arzt!

Leave me alone!  
Call the doctor!

### **Negation**

German negative sentences and clauses are formed with “*nicht*” and “*kein*”.

### ***Nicht***

*Nicht* is used to negate verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, proper nouns, and nouns modified by a definite article or possessive adjective.

*Nicht* is usually placed before the word it negates. When it negates a verb, it takes the last

position. When it does not negate a specific word, it is placed at the end of a clause or sentence.

Examples:

Das ist nicht richtig.  
Sie ist nicht Monica.  
Er kocht nicht.

That is not proper.  
She is not Monica.  
He doesn't cook.

## ***Kein***

Kein is used to negate nouns that are not modified by an article, and replaces the indefinite articles "ein" or "eine" to express negation.

Examples:

Er ist kein Dieb.  
Ich sehe kein Problem.

He is not a thief.  
I see no problem.

# Chapter 7

## - Adverbs

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives and other adverbs by providing information about manner, place, time, frequency and reason. Adverbs are invariable words that you can find in different parts of a sentence.

Here are the types of adverbs according to their function:

### **Modal Adverbs**

Modal adverbs describe the manner or tell how much:

different	anders
apparently	anscheinend
otherwise	ansonsten
completely	anz
also	auch
in addition	außerdem
extremely	äußerst
nearly	beinahe
famously	bekanntlich
definitely	bestimmt
likewise, as well	ebenfalls
firstly	erstens
eventually	eventuell
almost	fast
as follows	folgendermaßen
exactly like	genauso
enough	genug
gladly	gern
mostly	größtenteils
mainly	hauptsächlich
hopefully	hoffentlich
hardly	kaum
unfortunately	leider
possibly	möglicherweise
of course	natürlich
only	nur
by the dozen	reihenweise
very	sehr
so, thus	so
maybe, perhaps	vielleicht



probably	wahrscheinlich
at least	wenigstens
truly, really	wirklich

Examples:

Meine Mutter ist sehr nett.  
Er ist wirklich fleißig.

My mother is very kind.  
He is truly hardworking.

**Adverbs of Time and Frequency**

Adverbs of time and frequency or temporal adverbs tell when, since when, until when, how often, and how long.

Here are common temporal adverbs:

in the evening	abends
soon	bald
already	bereits
until now	bisher
then	damals
thereafter	danach
after, then	dann
beforehand	davor
once	einst
eventually/finally	endlich
yesterday	gestern
immediately	gleich
today	heute
always	immer
meanwhile	inzwischen
yearly	jährlich
now	jetzt
monthly	monatlich
tomorrow	morgen
in the morning	morgens
in the afternoon	nachmittags
during the night	nachts
lately/recently	neulich
never	nie
often	oft
regularly	regelmäßig

immediately	sofort
later	später
constantly	stets
daily	täglich
the day after tomorrow	übermorgen
the day before yesterday	vorgestern
earlier	vorhin
weekly	wöchentlich
at the time	zurzeit

Er spielte Fußball gestern.  
Er reinigt sein Zimmer wöchentlich.

He played football yesterday.  
He cleans his room weekly.

### Adverbs of place

Adverbs of place or locative adverbs tell the direction and location of an event or action.

upwards	aufwärts
downwards	abwärts
inside	drinnen
outside	außen
away	fort
straight ahead	geradeaus
here	hier
up to here	hierhin
into	hinein
behind	hinter
somewhere	irgendwo
on the left	links
on the right	rechts
to the left	nach links
to the right	nach rechts
near	nebenan
nowhere	nirgends
above	oberhalb
up	oben
everywhere	überall
down/below	unten
on the way	unterwegs
in front	vorn
somewhere else	woanders

Er versteckt sich **hinter** den Vorhängen.  
He is hiding behind the curtains.

Der Arzt ist **hier**.  
The doctor is here.

**Causal Adverbs**

Causal adverbs tell the origin of or reason for an action and answer questions like “for what reason”, “how so”, or “under what condition”.

so, therefore	also
otherwise	anderenfalls
because of that	dadurch
therefore	darum
thus	demnach
accordingly	demzufolge
therefore	deshalb
surely, however	doch
consequently	folglich
so far	insofern
in any case	jedenfalls
namely	nämlich
therefore	somit
otherwise	sonst
despite that	trotzdem
nevertheless	trotzdem

**Folglich** er aufgehört zu arbeiten.

**Trotzdem** schloss er sein Studium.

Consequently, he stopped working.

Nevertheless, he graduated.

# Chapter 8 - Vocabulary List

## Animals (die Tiere)



der Bär bear



der Hund dog



die Katze cat



der Elefant elephant



das Pferd horse



das Känguru kangaroo



der Leopard      leopard



der Affe      monkey



der Panda      panda



der Pinguin      penguin



das Schaf      sheep



der Tiger      tiger





das zebra    zebra



das Eichhörnchen squirrel

At the Dining Table



der Teller    plate



der Löffel (spoon)  
die Gabel (fork)



das Messer knife



die Karaffe pitcher



die Tasse cup



[die Schüssel](#) bowl



die Serviette table napkin



das Trinkglas glass



der Esstisch und die Stühle

dining table and chairs

Parts of the Body (Körperteile)

English	Singular	Plural
head	der Kopf	die Köpfe
bottom lip	die Unterlippe	die Unterlippen
cheek	die Wange	die Wangen
chin	der Kinn	
ear	das Ohr	die Ohren
eye	das Auge	die Augen
eyebrow	die Augenbraue	die Augenbrauen
eyelash	die Wimper	die Wimpern
face	das Gesicht	die Gesichter
forehead	die Stirn	
hair	das Haar	die Haare
incisor	der Schneidezahn	die Schneidezähne
lip	die Lippe	die Lippen
molar	der Backenzahn	die Backenzähne
mouth	der Mund	die Münder
nose	die Nase	die Nasen
nosehole	das Nasenloch	die Nasenlöcher
tongue	die Zunge	die Zungen
tooth	der Zahn	Zähne
upper lip	die Oberlippe	die Oberlippen
wisdom tooth	der Weisheitszahn	die Weisheitszähne
baby tooth	der Milchzahn	die Milchzähne



canine	der Eckzahn	die Eckzähne
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English	Singular	Plural
shoulder	die Schulter	die Schultern
axle	die Achsel	die Achseln
axillary hair	das Achselhaar	die Achselhaare
axilla	die Achselhöhle	die Achselhöhlen
arm	der Arm	die Arme
upper arm	der Oberarm	die Oberarme
elbow	der Ellenbogen	die Ellenbogen
lower arm	der Unterarm	die Unterarme
hand	die Hand	die Hände
finger	der Finger	die Finger
thumb	der Daumen	die Daumen
forefinger	der Zeigefinger	die Zeigefinger
middle finger	der Mittelfinger	die Mittelfinger
ring finger	der Ringfinger	die Ringfinger
little finger	der kleine Finger	die kleinen Finger
finger nail	der Fingernagel	die Fingernägel

English	Singular	Plural
breast	die Brust	die Brüste
nipple	die Brustwarze	die Brustwarzen
stomach	der Bauch	die Bäuche
navel	der Bauchnabel	die Bauchnabel
back	der Rücken	die Rücken
hip	die Hüfte	die Hüften
leg	das Bein	die Beine
thigh	der Oberschenkel	die Oberschenkel
knee	das Knie	die Knie
waste	die Wade	die Waden
foot	der Fuß	die Füße
toe	der Zeh	die Zehen

vagina	die Scheide	die Scheiden
penis	das Glied	die Glieder
foreskin	die Vorhaut	die Vorhäute
testis	der Hoden	die Hoden
scrotum	der Hodensack	die Hodensäcke

anus	der After	die After
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### Members of the Family

die Eltern	parents
der Vater	father
die Mutter	mother
der Papa	dad
die Mama	mom
der Ehemann	husband
die Ehefrau	wife
die Großeltern	grandparents
der Großvater	grandpa
die Großmutter	grandma
der Onkel	uncle
die Tante	aunt
der Sohn	son
die Tochter	daughter
der Bruder	brother
die Schwester	sister
der Neffe	nephew
die Nichte	niece
die Cousinn	cousins
der Schwiegervater	father-in-law
die Schwiegermutter	mother-in-law
der Schwager	brother-in-law
die Schwägerin	sister-in-law
der Schwiegersohn	son-in-law
die Schwiegertochter	daughter-in-law

### The Professions

der Buchhalter	accountant
der Schauspieler	actor
der Künstler	artist
der Sportler	athlete
der Herrenfriseur	barber
der Chef	boss
der Geschäftsmann	business person

der Metzger	butcher
der Schreiner	carpenter
der Kassierer	cashier
der Koch	chef
der Trainer	coach
der Computertechniker	computer technician
der Bauarbeiter	construction worker
der Zahnarzt	dentist
der Arzt	doctor
der Ingenieur	engineer
der Landwirt	farmer
der Feuerwehrmann	firefighter
der Friseur	hairstylist
der Richter	judge
der Rechtsanwalt	lawyer
der Bibliothekar	librarian
der Postbote	mail carrier
der Maurer	mason
der Mechaniker	mechanic
die Krankenschwester	nurse
der Polizist	police officer
der Präsident	president
der Professor	professor
der Programmierer	programmer
der Reporter	Reporter
die Sekretärin	Secretary
der Tierarzt	Veterinarian
die Bedienung	Waiter
der Schriftsteller	Writer

## Conclusion

I hope this book was able to help you master the basics of the German language. I am confident that by the time you finish this book, you will have gained all the skills and confidence you need to converse eloquently in German. The next steps include taking up more comprehensive German courses, taking part in online German forums, and traveling to Germany or other German-speaking countries.

Finally, if you enjoyed this book, please take the time to share your thoughts and post a positive review on Amazon. It'd be greatly appreciated!

Thank you and good luck!